

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 45

October 20, 2009

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS ON OCTOBER 20, 2009

SUBJECT: DIGITAL IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEM USE AND DEPLOYMENT -  
PILOT PROGRAM

EFFECTIVE: IMMEDIATELY

**PURPOSE:** The Los Angeles Police Department is deploying the Digital In-Car Video System (DICVS) inside patrol vehicles. The Digital In-Car Video System is a powerful law enforcement tool that contributes significantly to officer safety, provides evidence for criminal prosecutions, resolves biased policing complaints, and fosters positive relations with the community.

**PROCEDURE:** The Digital In-Car Video System is designed to assist officers in providing accurate depictions of events for courtroom presentations, capturing potentially incriminating statements from suspects, documenting and reviewing statements from victims and witnesses, and obtaining actual time frames of events for reporting purposes. The Digital In-Car Video System is being deployed in order to provide Department employees with a tool for crime documentation and prosecution, and not to monitor private conversations between Department employees.

**I. RECORDING LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

**A. Required Activation of the Digital In-Car Video System.** Officers shall activate the DICVS during the initiation of the following activities:

- \* All vehicle stops;
- \* All Code 3 responses and pursuits;
- \* All suspect transports;
- \* All pedestrian stops (when practicable); and,
- \* Any other occasion when, in the officer's judgment, it would be beneficial to do so. This may include, but is not limited to, stops and detentions, crimes in progress when recording is reasonably feasible, Mobile Field Force situations, or any situation, condition, or event presenting the potential for injury, loss of life, damage to property, or any potential risk-management issue.

**Exception:** Exigent circumstances may preclude officers from activating the DICVS. Each exception will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

**B. Deactivation of the Digital In-Car Video System.**

Once the DICVS is activated, the front camera shall remain activated until the entire incident or field contact has stabilized or the contact has ended. The rear camera shall remain activated until the suspect (rear passenger) has exited the vehicle.

**Note:** The Digital In-Car Video System can only be deactivated from the inside of the vehicle.

**II. REVIEW OF MATERIAL RECORDED BY THE DIGITAL IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEM.** The recorded video file can be viewed on the Mobile Data Computer. Once the video file is transferred to the Area's station, it can also be viewed on the Department's Local Area Network.

**Note:** Officers shall not alter, delete, or download any video footage recorded by the DICVS.

- A. Documentation.** When preparing crime and/or arrest reports, the reporting employees shall, when practicable, review any incident captured on video to refresh their recollection.
- B. Situations Involving the Use of Force.** Prior to being interviewed regarding a use of force (UOF), officers shall, when practicable, review video footage captured during the incident and/or other relevant footage.

In accordance with Department Manual Section 3/794.37, employees involved in a Categorical Use of Force (CUOF) shall be separated and monitored in order to maintain the independence of their recollection of the incident. To support this standard, employees involved in a known CUOF shall review video footage captured during the incident and/or other relevant footage prior to being interviewed. During the review of the video footage, the employee shall be accompanied by his/her employee representative, or the assigned investigator, should the employee elect not to have a representative present during the interview.

The separating and monitoring of the involved employees shall be maintained during the review of the video footage (i.e., the review shall never occur jointly among the involved employees).

In accordance with Department Manual Section 4/245.02, officers are required to provide a Public Safety Statement (PSS) subsequent to their involvement in officer-involved-shootings. The timely urgency associated with the PSS will, in most cases, preclude an officer the opportunity to review related captured video footage prior to providing the PSS.

The Department supervisor obtaining the PSS shall comply with the Office of the Chief of Police Notice, titled *Obtaining a Public Safety Statement Following an Officer-Involved Shooting Incident*, dated February 15, 2007.

**III. MISUSE OR ABUSE OF DIGITAL IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEM RECORDINGS.**

All data and imagery captured by the DICVS are the sole property of the Los Angeles Police Department. Employees are reminded that any misuse or abuse of DICVS audio and/or video recordings may result in disciplinary action. Department Manual Section 3/405 outlines the Department's policy regarding confidential files, documents, records and reports. The unauthorized use of recordings in the custody of Department personnel is prohibited and could subject the employee to disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution.

**AMENDMENTS:** This Order adds Section 3/579.13 to the Department Manual.

**AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY:** The Commanding Officer, Internal Audits and Inspections Division, shall monitor compliance with this directive in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.



WILLIAM J. BRATTON  
Chief of Police

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